

**From:** smith.house@sbcglobal.net@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I have read over the text regarding this issue, and many commentaries. I am completely against the settlement as proposed, and my opinions follow:

1. When I buy a new computer, I want a choice of OS. Since Microsoft began coercing OEM's to *\*only\** install Microsoft products, there has sadly been little choice of OS. A few IBM computers with OS/2 were available once, and now one or two are available with Linux, but that is about it. One has to search far and wide to find any kind of pre-installed choice on a new machine. If I am going to buy a new machine and replace the Microsoft product [with FreeBSD, at this point], I don't want to have to pay the extra price for the Microsoft License I will not use, and I don't want Microsoft getting any of my hard-earned money. That is what choice is about--deciding who will get my money.

2. The specifications of Microsoft's present and future document file formats must be made public, so that documents created in Microsoft applications may be read by programs from other vendor's programs [whether it be word processor, spreadsheet or database], in addition to the APIs, already part of the settlement.

3. Any Microsoft networking protocols must be published in full and *\*approved\** by an independent network protocol body before they can be implemented. This would prevent Microsoft from seizing de facto control of the Internet, and maybe even prevent some of the glaring security flaws in their software [mail programs and server OS's alike].

I'm not anti-Microsoft.. I just want to make sure that there is fair competition. Customer satisfaction resulting from experience with a number of different OS's should be the standard by which the 'best' OS is determined, not the marketing arm of Microsoft.

As it stands, IBM's OS/2 Warp 4.0 is *\*still\** an entirely better product for desktop computing than anything Microsoft has yet to unveil. IBM just couldn't conceive of stooping to their level to market their software.

In the end, capitalism, to work effectively, requires competition. This settlement doesn't allow that.

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